Demand of coal by cement plants

2837. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the annual demand of coal made by the cement plants in the country;

(b) whether the cement industry is not getting adequate quantum of coal; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to ensure adequate quantum of coal to each and every cement unit in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (c) The demand for coal for cement plants as assessed by the Planning Commission for the year 1995-96 was 15.30 million tonnes. Against this coal to an extent of 11.00 million tonnes (provisional) was despatched to the cement plants during the year 1995-96. As a result of the higher priority given for supply of coal to the power sector and as a result of transport constraints, supplies of coal to the industrial consumers including cement plants has been affected.

Coal companies are, however, endeavouring to meet the requirements of all consumpers in the country including cement plants by increasing production of coal. In addition coal from a number colleries is being offered under the Liberalised Sales Scheme (LSS) under which scheme coal is suplied without the requirement of linkages/sponsorships. Option of import of coal is also available. Cement plants are also allowed to take up mining for coal for their captive consumption.

Foreign Investment Promotion Council

2838. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state the aims and objectives of foreign Investment Promotion Council alongwith details?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): The Foreign Investment Promotion Council (FIPC) which would comprise distinguished and well known experts and would catalyse, manage and coordinate investment promotion and marketing efforts. It would, also Undertake studies identifying investment opportunities in India and prepare papers and documents for presentation to the suitable target groups abroad after making contacts with them. The activities of the Council would be conducted in close collaboration with the apex Commerce and Industry Associations. The Council will be assisted by a few professionals and officials.

Procurement of PR-106 Variety of Paddy

2839. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) Quantity of PR-106 variety of paddy procured during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise details thereof;

(b) whether during the year 1995-96, PR-106 was considered to be a superfine variety by procurement agencies;

(c) if so, the rates given for purchase of the said variety by the procurement agencies; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFIARS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) Paddy is classified as common, fine and superfine for the purpose of procurement and the procurement prices are also fixed accordingly. Several varieties of paddy have been classified as superfine and procurement figures of individual varieties are not available as the same are kept only for the group (i.e. superfine) as a whole. The statement showing procurement of superfine paddy during last 3 years is attached as statement. (*See* Below)